

ONLINE STORAGE SYSTEM**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 Files from a client are backed up over the internet onto a back-up storage
area. The client gathers identifying information for each file, including file size and
file checksum. A client server estimates whether the information matches that present
in a database including identifying information from multiple clients. When the
information for a given file is present, the matched information is stored in the back-
10 up storage area. When the information is not present, the given file is received from
the client computer. The given file and the associated identifying information then
are stored in the back-up storage area. The backed-up files are accessible in online
storage, and may be archived. The client accesses the backed-up files over the internet
in a restore operation, or as a virtual hard disk, a virtual CD image or a virtual DVD
15 image. The backed-up files are accessible offline on a CD or DVD.